



# Volunteer View

## Summer

### ***New volunteer begins roving interpretation at Pokagon State Park***

by Fred Wooley, Park Interpreter, Pokagon State Park

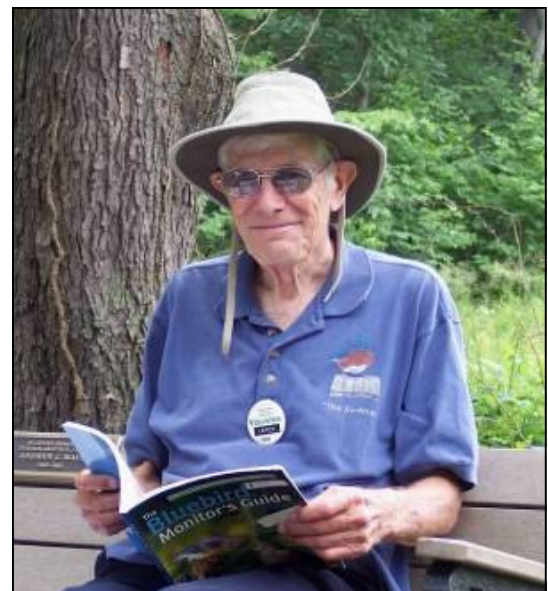
Leroy Johnson began as a volunteer in early June at Pokagon State Park. Leroy is no stranger to Pokagon. He and his wife, Sharon, have been longtime supporters over the years, having donated bird seed, bird houses, and sponsoring the taxidermy expenses of mounted animals. They spend their winters in Florida, where Leroy volunteers at the Tampa Electric Company Manatee Viewing Area. There he works as a roving trail guide, stationed out on a boardwalk with assorted props, pointing out the native flora and fauna of that part of Florida.

This spring he asked what volunteer opportunities exist at Pokagon. It seemed natural that we would take advantage of his love of nature and enthusiasm for sharing with others, and have him interact with park guests in the same manner as he does in Florida. His first opportunity with us was to be stationed across from the Nature Center with a spotting scope trained on a pileated woodpecker nest cavity. This nest became quite popular with visitors over recent weeks. Sadly, a storm after his first visit knocked down the tree and the interpretive story had an unfortunate ending.

Leroy is often stationed out on the bike trail where an open field provides habitat for bluebirds and homes for several bluebird boxes. Bluebirds are Leroy's passion. He even made and donated one of the bluebird boxes several years ago. It truly was natural that he be stationed at this location. He claims this is what he always wanted to do... come to the park, sit, and enjoy nature! He'll turn 80 in August, so it's about time! He'll get to share his love and knowledge of bluebirds and other Pokagon animals with anyone passing by on the trail. It is a win-win situation, the true heart of a successful volunteer effort.



Leroy Johnson interprets the birds and the surrounding habitat to Jennifer Phuong and her son Nathan from Fort Wayne.



Leroy Johnson comes prepared with field guides and optics to help highlight the wildlife of the area.

## Changing Landscape

You may have come upon (scientific) names in the literature that have changed? Mushrooms are a good example. I know the bird community constantly tries to keep current w/ the AOU, American Ornithological Union's (common) name changes. We see it in the botanical discipline, too.

So, on top of all we are learning, now we should be aware of the scientific name of an item changing or other names added as synonyms. We know this is true of many common names for the same plant, etc., hence the need for the scientific title. Talk about your changing landscape! Don't get overwhelmed with naming; remember, the academic community is struggling, too!

See text and photos below. Stephen is co-owner of a mushroom store in Nashville, a member of the park's Friends group and avid collector.

Jim Eagleman, Interpretive Naturalist  
Brown County State Park /IDNR

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Jim, we spoke briefly about many mushrooms having multiple scientific names. There is a very large mushroom that is growing in many places in the park right now. I have attached pictures of it. Its most up to date name is *Megacollybia rodmani*. However, when I did the research in the park, every book I had listed it *Tricholomopsis platyphylla*. However, there is also a European version of this species that many authors refer to in America. It is called *Megacollybia platyphylla*. All three of these names would be correct for this species, and it is often referred to by any of these three names. It is not uncommon for a mushroom to have at least three different scientific names.

Another example from a mushroom we found in the park is *Flammulaster erinaceella*. I have included a picture of it as well. It used to be known as both *Pholiota erinaceella* and *Phaeomarasmius erinaceellus*. To add to the confusion, several authors mistakenly misspelled it as *Phaeomarasmius erinaceella*. And finally, DNA studies have not yet been done on this mushroom, so it is entirely possible to change the genus again, or possibly go back to one of the old names.

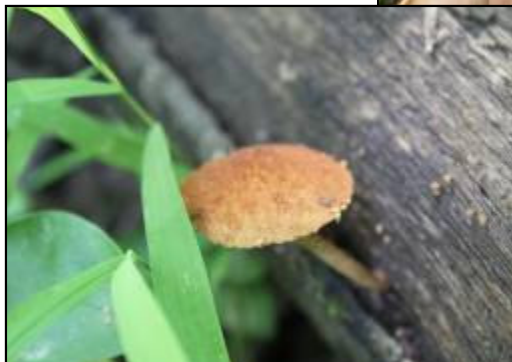
It is usually the genus title that changes with the mushrooms, and not usually the species name. Almost everything within the world of mushroom taxonomy is within a state of flux. Many of the mushrooms that you look at will have at least 1 or more synonyms that it has formerly gone by. It is not uncommon for that number to get as high as 5. Just wanted to give you a couple of examples of common mushrooms in the park that have many different names they go by.

For a brief read on why things are like this, look here:  
<http://mushroomexpert.com/taxonomy.html>

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*Megacollybia rodmani*



*Pholiota erinaceella*

## ***The 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act DNR Volunteers are Helping***

The 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is on July 26th. The Great Lakes ADA Center in conjunction with the National Network of ADA Centers has launched an initiative titled, 2010 in 2010. This is an effort to get 2,010 state and local governments to issue proclamations in recognition of the 20th anniversary and to re-commit to the full implementation of the ADA. Join them and become part of a nation-wide effort to proclaim a recommitment to the vision and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act--full inclusion of people with disabilities in American life!

Visit <http://www.2010anniversary.org/> for sample proclamations, suggested activities, and events related to the anniversary.

The Department of Natural Resources has joined the effort. And *A Proclamation of Recommitment to Full Implementation of the ADA* has been issued. It goes on to say...

*...The ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers and changing perceptions, increasing full participation in community life. However, the full promise of the ADA will only be reached if public entities remain committed in their efforts to fully implement the ADA.*

*On the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, celebrate and recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principals of equality and inclusion and recommitting our efforts to reach full ADA compliance...*

The DNR is proud to have two new volunteers to help in this effort.

Jim Matthews will be looking at the property from the perspective of a person with a disability, taking measurements with a tape measure and smart level to see where a person with a mobility or vision disability might encounter barriers. The plan is to have him provide a report of those areas of the property where compliance with ADA Accessibility Guidelines is done well and where there may be a need for improvement. These findings may provide the basis for a Disability Guide, but for now, will give us the ability to answer public inquiries about where there is a good place for people with disabilities to experience the Department's natural resources.

Velda Miller has offered her talents in Braille. She will be transcribing a couple brochures from Turkey Run State Park. The brochures will be available for the sight-impaired to better "see" the beauty of the park through the touch of words.

The Department is very excited to have these two volunteers. If you are interested in helping in this effort please contact Jody Heaston, [Jheaston@dnr.in.gov](mailto:Jheaston@dnr.in.gov) or 260-824-0926.



## **Help Wanted! Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**



This year the **Indiana State Fair** needs costumed heritage interpreters for **Hoosier Heritage Day** at the Indiana State Fair! **August 12** is the 2nd annual Hoosier Heritage Day at the fair, and we are looking for high quality costumed interpretive volunteers who can portray someone from Indiana's fascinating history. Pioneer life, times of war, historical figures - all are welcome. We need people who can walk around the tent area and talk to people, explain who they are, maybe have some props to show folks. There will NOT be a booth or table or chairs, this would be a two hour shift of walking and talking to fair goers. We will provide a **free one day ticket** to the fair, and a parking pass - and of course our gratitude and appreciation! For more information, please email Vicki Basman, Chief of Interpretation, at:

[vbasman@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:vbasman@dnr.IN.gov) by August 1.

The **DNR Fishing Pond** is in need of volunteers at the State Fair, August 6-22. This is a very popular activity and they need all the help they can get! You can volunteer at any of the four stations: registration, fishing, equipment and education. Please contact the Go FishIN program at [gofishin@dnr.in.gov](mailto:gofishin@dnr.in.gov) or 317-562-1338.

**Hoosier Outdoor Experience**, September 18-19 at Fort Harrison State Park is looking for several volunteers. This free event draws attention to the great outdoors with hands on educational opportunities and skill-building activities focusing on natural resource conservation, outdoor ethics and responsibility. Go to [www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.in.gov](http://www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.in.gov) or call at 317-562-1338 or email [outdoorexperience@dnr.in.gov](mailto:outdoorexperience@dnr.in.gov) to learn more about becoming a volunteer for this event.

### **Fort Harrison State Park-**

Adult volunteers are needed this fall to help cut, drag and spray bush honeysuckle. We have had great success with BSA Eagle Scout candidates performing this job, we need to throw more warm bodies into the battle. Volunteers need to be physically active, be able to haul heavy loads, walk long distances, and work out doors in the heat. We will be working on honeysuckle removal on weekends in the fall and coming winter at Fort Harrison. Groups of older youths (high school-college) or adult service clubs are encouraged to contact Jeff Cummings, [jcummings@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jcumings@dnr.in.gov), or by office number at 317-591-0122 Wed - Sun, 8a - 4:30p.

### **Museum of 20th Century Warfare at Fort Harrison State Park**

Senior adults or persons interested in history can sign up to become a Docent for the Museum of 20th Century Warfare at Fort Harrison State Park. Contact the Secretary of the Museum through Email at: [maps03@att.net](mailto:maps03@att.net).

### **Ouabache State Park-**

Volunteers needed for Ouabache's Fall Festival event on October 29 - 31. Most help needed on October 30th. Volunteers are needed to run games, help with food, decorate, and help with crafts. Volunteers needed in early August to organize the event. Volunteers should contact Kate Curless, [ouabacheinterp@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:ouabacheinterp@dnr.IN.gov) or call the park at 260-824-0926.

### **Turkey Run State Park**

Volunteers needed to do demonstrations and prehistoric crafts during our Archaeology Day on August 14, 2010. We will train and provide all materials. Come have some fun and help make memories for our visitors. Volunteers needed to work during our 2-day Halloween Camping Weekend October 22-23, 2010. We want volunteers to help prepare for the event, including stuffing eggs and decorating a haunted house. Contact Barbara Cummings at 765-597-2654 or [bcummings@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:bcummings@dnr.IN.gov).

*Continued on page 5...*

*Volunteer opportunities continued...*

### **Starve Hollow SRA**

Starve Hollow in Vallonia, IN could use volunteers who can do bird identification hikes, help put on programs for archaeology day, and the biggest event we need help with is our haunted beach house the last two weekends of October. We also do activities at various hours all weekend for those two weekends that I could use help or different ideas for. Would really appreciate some help. Contact Sandy Derringer, 812-358-3464.

### **DNR Patoka Reservoir**

Volunteers needed for the annual Autumn Getaway Weekend on Friday, October 15th for Friendship Stew and Saturday, October 16th for all day & evening programs. Visitors enjoy this opportunity to spend time outdoors for the season and participate in a wide variety of programs & activities. This is a very popular event with Dutch Oven Cook-Off competition, pet parade & more! Any and all assistance would be greatly appreciated as the 455 campsites in the modern campgrounds are filled to capacity. For more information call the Patoka Lake Visitor Center 812-685-2447.

### **Raccoon SRA**

Could use some volunteers for our Halloween Camping Weekend on October 23rd. We do a variety of activities such as face painting, crafts, pumpkin carving contests, costume contests and hayrides. We would mainly need the volunteers from 11am - 3pm on Saturday October 23rd. Contact Sam Arthur, 765-344-1412 or Email - [sarthur@dnr.in.gov](mailto:sarthur@dnr.in.gov).

### **Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site**

Volunteer assistance is needed for two large events. Chautauqua Days will take place on August 14 - 15 from 12:00pm - 4:00pm and will be a celebration of the history of Sylvan Lake's longest running festival and Gene's birthday. Volunteers will be needed to run activities, lead garden tours and assist visitors. Owl-oween will take place October 15 - 16 and will include fun wildlife activities, a spooky overnight in the Cabin and ongoing night hikes.

We are also seeking volunteers to serve in a multitude of exciting roles this autumn. The site is hosting Garden Work Days September 11, October 9 and November 13 and will be working to improve the gardens that Gene Stratton-Porter planted herself through the removal of invasives, cutting back perennials and planting bulbs. Call 260-854-3790 or email [hsamuelsan-couchman@dnr.in.gov](mailto:hsamuelsan-couchman@dnr.in.gov) to find out how you can help!

## **Facebook Fan?**

Are you one of the many people who use Facebook? If so, be a fan of Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs. As of March we had 2,400 fans!

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs>.

Or go on Facebook and search for Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs.

**!! SAVE THE DATE !!**  
**2010 Annual Friends Gathering**  
**November 5, 2010**  
**At McCormick's State Park**

Are you a member of a Friends Group? Do you want to get some new ideas or share some great ideas? Well, this is the day to do that and much more. The Friends of McCormick's State Park are busy planning a wonderful day. The day will have time for idea swamping, organizational issues, networking, programs provided by Friends of McCormick's State Park and more. Details will come soon and be pass along to Friends members. Please email me if you can make it and provide us with additional ideas for the day. We hope to see everyone there!



**DNR**

The mission of Indiana's State Parks and Reservoirs is to manage and interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife and cultural resources using principles of multiple use and preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current and future generations.

